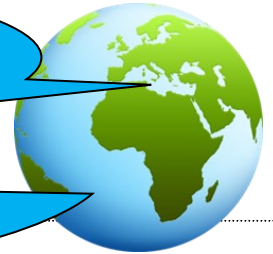




Very International People



July 2018

Discovery Week to France

Monday 11th June

We've just returned from an exciting trip to France. On Monday 11th June we all met on the corner of High Shincliffe and said goodbye to our families at 5.30am. It was very exciting being with all our friends on the coach, we watched Ice Age and it was still very early! We stopped at Peterborough Services for a 50 minute break for our driver Paul - it was really sunny so we sat at some tables outside. And even did some exercises.



After that we were off to Dover. We arrived in good time and got straight through the French customs point. Once we were on the ferry we headed upstairs to the restaurant area to order our lunch. After we had eaten we headed to the outside deck - it was very windy! We could see France and couldn't wait to arrive. We all got back on the bus and headed to Péronne. We arrived at our hotel after 12 hours of travelling. We all had rooms on the second floor - they had bunk beds, a big wet room and a huge TV. It felt amazing to be in France with all our friends. We quickly unpacked and went downstairs for dinner. After dinner we went outside to a park area for a run around. Then we walked around the moat and part of the city walls.



Tuesday 12th June

On Tuesday we headed off to our partner school in Buironfosse, it was both exciting and worrying to meet the French children - we had a drink and some madeleine cakes they had made, then we were split into different groups to go into lessons. When we all met up again in the Reception classroom we enjoyed playing with all their games and toys.

Lunch was great!! We had tomatoes with garlic and oil for starter then lots of chicken, chips and bread followed by lemon tart. It was delicious!! It was fun sitting and chatting with all the French children.

After lunch the whole school gathered together and Madame Faou and Mrs Morgan gave some speeches. Each French class then performed some songs for us and then we exchanged presents.

They loved the bookmarks, hand greetings, keyrings and Durham in a box.

The mayor was there and so was the local press taking photos.

The afternoon was spent playing games such as frisbee, chess, mekado, Frustration in French, Uno and skittles. It was a wonderful experience being in a different school and communicating with our new friends.





The clog museum was interesting and we saw hundreds of different clogs through the ages and from different areas. There was also an animated display of the traditions of clog making and a hut where the clog makers would live in the forest. Then we had the amazing opportunity to see a clog being made.

Wednesday 13th June

It was Findlay's birthday so we all enjoyed celebrating with banners and balloons.

We went to Arras and had the chance to buy tomatoes, cucumber and lots of fruits to go with our sandwiches. We all bought something and spoke in French to the market stall holders. We then had the chance to buy some presents and souvenirs to bring home.



We had a good look around Arras and tried to find some places Andrew's Great Gran had been to during World War II.



At Les Grottes de Naours we had our picnic with all our extra food from the markets and also some delicious cakes Findlay's mum had sent. We then took a radio-guided tour of the underground city which dates from the 9th century. It was dark and cool - it was a constant temperature throughout the whole area. In the city there were multiple bedrooms, also a chapel. In another area the cave had fallen in so the villagers built a fake house on top



to disguise the underground network of passages and rooms. There was also a chimney that went into a mill above so that enemies couldn't see the smoke from the underground city.

After we walked out of the cave, we played around in the playpark and went on all the equipment. Once we'd spent some time playing we had the chance to buy an icecream and visit the gift shop. When we got back to the hotel we had a big meal followed by birthday cake (thanks again to Findlay's mum) and then had a party with lots of games!



Thursday 14th June

On Thursday we went to see some of the WWI memorials - the Somme area where we were staying saw a lot of battles fought. When we arrived at Lochnagar Crater we were told that a bomb had exploded here on the 1st July 1916 at 7.28am which killed 6380 men and officers. We walked around the huge crater and read lots of the names of the soldiers who died.



Our next stop was Beaumont Hamel Memorial. First, we went to the small indoor museum and then had a tour. We were told about the New Foundlanders' involvement in WWI. Our first stop was a trench walk where our guide pointed out the danger tree which was only as far as the soldiers got to when trying to attack.



The caribou statue is very large and is the emblem to oversee the New Foundland soldiers - the plaque in front has the names of 824 soldiers who were never found. We walked around the site and saw no mans land, the allies and the German front line and lots of craters where explosions had taken place.

Our third and final memorial was Thiepval Monument which holds the names of 72000 unfound soldiers. The Thiepval Monument was towering above us as we approached it and the colossal arch can be seen from miles around. We wandered through the many rows of

walls engraved with the names of the brave soldiers who fought in the first world war. We gazed around in awe at the amount of names – they went on and on. In the centre of the monument we circled a small stone covered with wreaths and poppies to remember the soldiers who lost their lives. Behind the arch there are grave stones and a large cross with prayers on it, all overlooking the area where the battles took place.



That evening we had to pack our bags and then dinner was lasagne – delicious!

We held a talent show and had lots of fun with magic card tricks, singing and dancing.

Friday 15th June

On Friday morning we woke up and put our bags on the coach. Our journey to Calais went really quickly and we went through the two sets of customs without any delays.

Luckily, we got an earlier ferry and it was a perfect day with a calm sea. We ate our packed lunch and then went to the shop to buy our final souvenirs. A coastal rescue helicopter was doing some training so we went onto the deck to watch. The journey from Dover to Peterborough was good and we stopped for a MacDonalds. We arrived back at school at 7.20pm !

We would like to thank Mrs. Morgan, Mr Tait and Mrs Armstrong for making the whole of this trip possible. We would like to thank Paul the bus driver and the staff at the centre. We would also like to thank everyone at the French school for being so welcoming and to our parents for paying and letting us take this trip. It was a great success and we wish we could have stayed longer!

